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COMM 205 with Dr. Lenze

Informative Speech

How Smart is a Smartphone?

Hello, my name is Leah Brockman, a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I’m betting most of you own some sort of smartphone. Smartphones really do help better everyday life. They take the form of pocket sized personal computers. From GPS, to Facebook and other social media, to keeping track of your every move, and to apps for just about everything, smart phones are a tether to the here and now and definitely are not going away any time soon. Based on my personal experience one can get lost in all the applications available for a smartphones.

In this presentation I will be talking about the different kinds of smartphones and how they integrate into the 21st century and modern society. Smartphones come in all different shapes and sizes.

**(Cut to slide of smartphone pictures)**

**Two of the biggest producers of smartphones are Apple and Android. They are also the biggest rivals when it comes to production with iPhones and Samsung Galaxies. It almost seems ridiculous the almost inhuman speed at which these smartphones are produced. With new models coming out every year like clockwork it is no wonder there is a renewed fascination with all things related to new technology.**

(Cut back to me)

All smartphones seem to have a wide range of functions. Siri is the voice that pops up after holding the home button and is strictly on Apple products. My personal experience with smartphones comes in the form of the iPhone 4s, which I am using to record this video.

**(Cut to slide of Siri on phone)**

**She can do a myriad of tasks for the owner of the phone. Managing a daily calendar, looking up all kinds of things on the web, being a reminder for important dates, and taking the weirdest questions you can think of only scratches the surface on what she can really do.**

(Cut back to me)

One thing about smartphones that is, and yet is not consistent, is the updates. About once or twice a month, the manufacturer of a smartphone will come out with a new update that fixes small bugs or enables new functions with a phone. Then sometimes a big update will let someone have the YouTube application open while the phone is locked. That was a huge update for Apple.

I think smartphones are an insight on how technology can do great things for humanity, but there are always drawbacks to advancement.

Staring at brightly lit screens for hours on end can actually end up hurting peoples’ eyesight. This is why books will never be obsolete in my world. Yet the way smartphones are morphing society at such a rapid pace has me intrigued and should have you, the audience, intrigued as well. Just like social media has the ability to let someone see another without meeting face to face a smartphone has become second nature along with home phones becoming scarce nowadays.

Imagine a couple sitting in a restaurant. Both of them have their smartphones on the table and casually check them as dinner goes on. What’s wrong with this picture? Because they are not making eye contact with one another, they will likely miss any subtle cues that the other might have, or miss something important entirely. Which leads me to my next point.

If someone could count their friends on Facebook or their followers on Twitter or Tumblr or any other social media site, there would be a multitude of people they do not see face to face on a regular basis. Even I do myself. People also nowadays tend to rely on their smartphones for literally everything in their everyday lives. For instance, say you get lost trying to find your way home. You ask Siri, find directions for your home address, and then she tells you that she has pulled up google maps and has directions to get you home.

Smartphones can also do some really cool things with the human body. If you have the application, you can record how many steps you take, daily exercise routines, and so on. It isn’t like a fitbit, which is a small device that you strap onto your wrist that tracks your movements all day. Along with voice controlled texting and calling, it is a miracle that we even lift a finger to do daily tasks.

Something that continues to shock me as a student is the desensitization to the events that happens across the globe and in local communities. Presidential elections are being monitored on social media and according to people who voted in the last election, most of it was through Facebook and Twitter.

**(Cut to slide of President Obama in BuzzFeed video)**

President Obama has been seen as one of the most media centered presidents of our time.

**(Cut back to me)**

Back to what I mentioned earlier about desensitization. Every time there is a mass shooting supporters rally, at least for a little while and then things die down until the next time something happens. Then the circle continues. It also shows up on every facet of media we have. Smartphones are no exception with news applications being so easily available.

Fortunately, even with all the bad things that smartphones are used for, I think they are used even more for the good things. When supporters rally behind a worthy cause, smartphones are there to capture the moment whether in a photograph or a video, where it then spreads to all corners of the globe.

In lieu of all this, is it right to say that smartphones have changed society for the better? Your guess is as good as mine but the purpose of this video was to inform the listeners that society has changed. Whether for the better is up to you. Hopefully this video has given a little more information on smartphones and a few tidbits on what they can do if you have not already heard it before.

Again my name is Leah Brockman, an owner of a smartphone just like more than half the population on this earth, and if you have any questions about the content of this video you can post a question or a comment at iblog.iup.edu/CHLT or send me an email through the contact link on my blog. Thanks for watching!

**(Credits Roll)**